



The Old Ironsides Report



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Civil Affairs unit buys new equipment for two Baghdad fire stations

By Cpl. Todd Pruden, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Two fire stations got much-needed help recently from a U.S. Army Civil Affairs unit in Baghdad. Equipment and uniforms were purchased and delivered by soldiers of the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit out of Greensboro, N.C.

Fire hoses, utility uniforms and vehicle batteries were among the items deemed necessary by the soldiers to get the fire stations back up and running again.

The Al Madean fire station received 10 fire hoses, while the Zafarniya station received seven utility uniforms for the fire fighters and new batteries for the fire trucks.

According to Capt. Major Bowen, a team chief for the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, the items were purchased using the 1st Armored Division's commander's emergency funds.

The hope is for the stations in Baghdad to meet the standard in order to battle fires when and wherever they occur. Bowen said fire stations were near the top of his list of amenities to give aid to. "Our priorities are schools, fire stations and (medical) clinics," Bowen said.

The 422nd is part of the 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, based in Riverdale, Md. These civil affairs units are attached to the 1st Armored Division in Baghdad for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Bowen said the Al Madean fire station had four inoperable fire hoses, which prompted the need for 10 new hoses there. He said the four were in poor condition, had



Capt. Major Bowen, a team chief with the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion, an Army Reserve unit from Greensboro, N.C., hands new utility uniforms to firefighters in Baghdad, Iraq, Oct. 2

leaks and were not capable of the needed water pressure to battle a typical blaze. The basic load plan on a typical fire truck is 10 hoses, he said.

"We did not see anything from the prior regime," Muhammed Kredi Hassoni, fire commissioner for the Zafarniya fire station said through the use of a translator. "I appreciate everything from the U.S. Army."

Hassoni said the Army has helped with getting a contract to remodel the firehouse and purchased mattresses and beds for the firefighters at the station.

According to Bowen, more equipment is on the way for the firefighters. He said shoes, bunker gear and flame-retardant chemical suits were on his list of items to acquire.

"We'll keep doing this until they can stand on their own," said Bowen. "It's my job. I'm glad to help these people out."

NEWS

Bush Touts Postwar Progress in Iraq

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) - President Bush, confronting public doubts about his postwar strategy in Iraq, likened the task to rebuilding Germany and Japan after World War II. Speaking to a military audience Thursday, he cautioned Americans against complacency, warning that the danger of terrorism "has not passed." And striking back at the Democrats who want his job, Bush said, "The challenges we face today cannot be met with timid actions or bitter words. Our challenges will be overcome with optimism and resolve and confidence in the ideals of America."

Afghans Sign Truce After Scores Killed

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan (AP) - Two rival warlords signed a cease-fire Thursday after fierce fighting left scores dead in northern Afghanistan, both sides said. It was not clear if the deal would hold, although both sides reported their troops began withdrawing tanks and other weapons from the battlefield. Fighting raged up until the agreement was reached, and tensions remained high, commanders said. Several past truces have quickly dissolved.

Episcopalian Group Repudiates Gay Stance

DALLAS (AP) - Conservative Episcopalians overwhelmingly backed a declaration Thursday that repudiates their denomination for becoming more accepting of gays and calls on a meeting of world Anglican leaders "to intervene in the Episcopal Church." By confirming the election of an openly gay bishop this summer and acknowledging that some bishops are allowing blessings of same-sex unions, the denomination's General Convention has "broken fellowship with the larger body of Christ," the statement said.

SAFETY TIP:

We continue to have accidents that are caused by not using ground guides properly. Fortunately, we have not had a serious injury or damage to equipment. Ground guides will prevent these accidents.

Ground guides will be used when—

- ✓ Rear visibility limited or is blocked by cargo
- ✓ Moving through assembly areas, motor pools, LSAs

Ground Guides will—

- ✓ Not walk backwards
- ✓ Not position themselves between vehicles
- ✓ Use reflective vests/belts and flashlights when visibility is reduced
- ✓ Forward ground guide will be 10 in front of vehicle

ENTERTAINMENT

Siegfried Says Tiger Was Trying to Help

LAS VEGAS (AP) - The tiger that injured Roy Horn of the duo "Siegfried & Roy" had been trying to help the illusionist after he slipped and accidentally harmed him by using too much force, says Horn's partner, Siegfried Fischbacher.

"A cat is a tiger and when he wants to protect his pal he does it the way a tiger does, with his strength," Fischbacher said. "But we are human; we are a little more fragile."

Fischbacher said he had been standing backstage when Horn was wounded by the Royal White tiger named Montecore.

The illusionist tripped and the tiger lunged, grabbing Horn's arm, Fischbacher said. After Horn tried to free himself by hitting the tiger on the head with a microphone, the 600-pound animal took hold of his neck and then dragged him offstage. Show workers set off fire extinguishers backstage to distract the tiger, which then scurried to his cage.

Fischbacher said the tiger didn't intend to kill Horn. If that was the case, he said, "I wouldn't be here, Roy wouldn't be here."

According to Fischbacher, Horn muttered after the attack: "Don't harm the cat."

Fischbacher hinted at a return to the stage if Horn recovers, saying the duo would "take a different path, I'm sure, but ... the show is our life."

Schwarzenegger Pokes Fun at Jay Leno

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Arnold Schwarzenegger paid a surprise visit to "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," where he poked fun at the late-night host for appearing bored during his victory speech.

In a walk-on during Leno's monologue Wednesday, California's governor-elect showed a clip of the host checking his watch after introducing Schwarzenegger at a celebration the previous night.

"You looked at your watch. I cannot believe it," Schwarzenegger joked, as Leno fumbled with an excuse. "Just remember, never call me, and I'm going to check right away your tax returns when I get up to Sacramento."

The actor first announced he was running for governor on Leno's show in August.

Chaplain's Thought for the Day: **Calm Down**

A man was pushing a shopping cart containing a screaming, thrashing, bouncing baby boy through a supermarket. The man kept repeating such admonitions as, "Don't yell, Brian. Calm down, Brian. Don't get excited, Brian."

A woman standing next to him said, "You certainly are to be commended, young man, for trying to soothe your son Brian."

The man looked at her and said soberly, "Lady, I'm Brian!"

Feeling a little stressed? Listen to the words of the Psalmist: "The Lord will hear when I call to Him." Ps. 4:3b

Call upon the Lord in your time of distress and He will answer.